

Message Text

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43

ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ACDE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

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INFO USDEL MBFR VIENNA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

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USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T USNATO 3431

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: TRILATERAL MEETING OF OPTION III EXPERTS,

JUNE 24, 1975

SUMMARY: FOLLOWING JUNE 24 SPC MEETING, FRG, UK, AND U.S. OPTION III EXPERTS MET TO DISCUSS A WORK PROGRAM FOR THE FUTURE CONSIDERATION OF OPTION III IN NATO. BOTH FRG AND UK EXPERTS EXPRESSED A WILLINGNESS TO MAKE THIS CONSIDERATION AS EXPEDITIOUS AS POSSIBLE, AND NEITHER PUT FORWARD ANY SUBSTANTIVE QUESTIONS OTHER THAN THOSE RAISED IN THE JUNE 23 AND JUNE 24 SPC MEETINGS. THE U.S. DELEGATION AGREED THAT A PAPER WOULD HAVE TO BE PREPARED AND AGREED EMBODYING CERTAIN ALLIANCE UNDERSTANDINGS BEYOND WHAT WOULD BE CONTAINED IN THE AHG GUIDANCE ITSELF. THE FRG AGREED THAT THIS PAPER SHOULD BE KEPT AS SHORT AS POSSIBLE, AND THAT IT WOULD NOT BE NECESSARY FOR THE SPC TO WORK THE U.S. VIEWS PAPER OR DRAFT ONE OF COMPARABLE DETAIL. THE UK PROPOSED THAT FOR REASONS OF SECURITY, ISSUES RELATED
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TO POSSIBLE ALLIED FALL-BACK POSITIONS (ESPECIALLY REGARDING THE POSSIBLE EXTENSION OF LIMITATIONS TO ALLIED ARMAMENTS) SHOULD NOT BE DISCUSSED IN EITHER THE SPC OR THE MBFR WORKING GROUP, BUT RATHER SHOULD BE STUDIED BY AN OPEN-ENDED WORKING

GROUP OF EXPERTS. IT WAS AGREED THAT THERE WOULD BE FURTHER TRILATERAL EXPERT CONSULTATIONS IN THE FUTURE AS NECESSARY.
END SUMMARY

1. FOLLOWING THE JUNE 24 SPC MEETING, THE U.S. EXPERTS INVITED THEIR UK AND FRG COUNTERPARTS TO MEET TO DISCUSS FURTHER WORK. THE U.S. BEGAN BY OUTLINING THE EXPECTED FORMAT OF THE DRAFT GUIDANCE. FRG EXPERT (RUTH) RECALLED FRG COMMENT IN THE SPC MEETING THAT SOME FURTHER PAPER WOULD BE NEEDED TO EXPLAIN THE BASIS FOR THE GUIDANCE. HE EXPLAINED THAT THE FRG GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE TO APPROVE THE USE OF OPTION III AT A HIGH LEVEL, AND THAT HE WANTED TO BE ABLE TO SHOW MINISTERS AN ALLIANCE-AGREED DOCUMENT WHICH CONTAINED BOTH THE EXPLANATIONS AND THE CAVEATS THAT SUCH FRG OFFICIALS WOULD DEMAND. THE U.S. REP INDICATED THAT THE U.S. COULD SEE THE NEED FOR SUCH AN APPROACH BUT WISHED TO AVOID THE PROLONGED SPC WORK THAT WOULD BE NEEDED TO AGREE ON ANY PAPER AS DETAILED AS THE U.S. VIEWS PAPER. FRG EXPERTS AGREED THAT THE SUPPLEMENTARY PAPER COULD BE KEPT AS CONCISE AS POSSIBLE, AND COULD FOLLOW THE OUTLINE OF THE DRAFT GUIDANCE. (COMMENT: RUTH SUBSEQUENTLY REQUESTED ON JUNE 25 THAT THIS FURTHER ELABORATION BE TITLED "ADDITIONAL ASPECTS OF ALLIANCE POSITION". END COMMENT)

2. UK EXPERT (WOOD) BELIEVED THAT IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO STUDY CAREFULLY THE IMPLICATIONS OF EXTENDING LIMITATIONS TO ALLIED NUCLEAR EQUIPMENT. HE INDICATED THAT FOR SECURITY REASONS SUCH A STUDY SHOULD NOT TAKE PLACE IN THE SPC, BUT FELT THAT THE ALLIES COULD NOT AFFORD TO PUT FORWARD POSITION OF RESISTING ALL SUCH LIMITATIONS WITHOUT SOME IDEA OF WORST CASE IMPLICATIONS. AFTER CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION, IT WAS TENTATIVELY AGREED TO PROPOSE THAT THE SPC ESTABLISH ON AN AD HOC BASIS AN OPEN-ENDED GROUP COMPOSED PRIMARILY OF EXPERTS. MATTERS RELATED TO OPTION III WHICH REQUIRE DEVELOPMENT OF FURTHER ANALYSIS AND REFINEMENT AS A BASIS FOR INFORMED SPC CONSIDERATION WOULD BE REFERRED TO THIS OPEN-ENDED CAUCUS BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SPC. A DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SPC WOULD ACT AS CHAIRMAN OF THE CAUCUS IN EACH CASE. DELEGATIONS WHICH
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WISH TO PARTICIPATE IN CONSIDERATION OF A PARTICULAR ISSUE WOULD BE REPRESENTED BY DESIGNATED EXPERTS.

3. UK REPS BELIEVE THAT A STUDY IS NECESSARY OF ALL ALLIED PROGRAMS INVOLVING NUCLEAR-CAPABLE AIRCRAFT, SO AS TO DETERMINE WHETHER A FREEZE ON NATO NUCLEAR-CAPABLE AIRCRAFT MODELS WOULD INTERFERE WITH PLANNED UK INCREASES. SUCH A STUDY COULD COME UNDER THE PURVIEW OF THE OPEN-ENDED GROUP BUT A SMALLER TRILATERAL GROUP COULD ALSO CONDUCT SUCH A REVIEW. THE FRG REPS THOUGHT THAT THIS GROUP MIGHT ALSO SEEK TO DEVELOP A TABLE OF NATO-AGREED DATA COMPARABLE TO THE ONE AT THE END OF THE U.S. VIEWS PAPER, BUT NO AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ON WHETHER THIS WOULD BE NECESSARY. IT WAS ALSO UNDERSTOOD THAT THIS GROUP WOULD

TAKE UP OTHER ISSUES AS THEY MAY ARISE IN SPC DISCUSSIONS.
THE U.S. EXPERTS BELIEVE THAT A STUDY WILL BE NECESSARY ON
LIMITATIONS OF SOVIET NUCLEAR SYSTEMS, BASED ON INITIAL DISCUSSION
IN THE SPC.

4. THE PROCEDURE ENVISAGED IS THEREFORE THAT THE
SPC DISCUSSIONS WILL CENTER ON DRAFTING GUIDANCE
FOR THE AD HOC GROUP, BASED ON THE U.S. DRAFT WHICH WE HOPE
TO CIRCULATE JUNE 26. WE FORESEE NAC GUIDANCE FOR THE AHG
SUPPLEMENTED BY AGREEMENT AMONG ALLIES ON ADDITIONAL
ASPECTS OF THE ALLIED POSITION NOT SPECIFIED IN THE GUIDANCE.

5. MISSION WILL SUGGEST THIS APPROACH AT THE TIME IT
CIRCULATED THE U.S. DRAFT GUIDANCE, HOPEFULLY AT THE JUNE 26 SPC
MEETING. IF THE SPC ACCEPTS THIS PROCEDURE, THEN THE TIMING
OF ITS FURTHER WORK WILL BE DETERMINED LARGELY BY THE RATE OF
PROGRESS ON WORKING THE DRAFT AHG GUIDANCE. THE SPC WILL MOST
LIKELY MEET ON THIS GUIDANCE EVERY MONDAY AND TUESDAY STARTING
MONDAY JUNE 30, WITH THE POSSIBLITY OF AN ADDITIONAL MEETING
AT THE END OF EACH WEEK IF NECESSARY.

6. THE UK AND FRG EXPERTS DO NOT INTEND TO ATTEND MOST OF
THESE SPC MEETINGS, BUT WILL BE HAPPY TO ATTEND A TRILATERAL
EXPERTS MEETING IF THE U.S. EXPERTS SO SUGGEST. BRUCE

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